

Chester, PA — On Thursday, April 12, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), Vice Chairman of the Small Business Committee and a member of the Education and Labor Committee, held an Economic Development Summit at Widener University to provide an opportunity for business leaders and owners from across the district, local chambers of commerce, economic development professionals, venture capitalists, representatives from financial institutions, union and workforce leaders, elected and non-elected community leaders, and those from both the higher education and advanced training community to address the challenges facing our workforce, barriers to investments, and to discuss strategies to bring economic growth to our local and regional economies.

“This summit was organized with one simple goal in mind – to provide us with as much quality and useable information as possible, so our current businesses can grow and we can generate new investments in our community to help our local and regional economy prosper,” noted Congressman Sestak. “We all have ideas on bringing more jobs to our district. By working together, we can bring more folks to the table to forge a road map for our economic future.”

Today’s summit, through a series of interactive panel discussions, explored ways to encourage revitalization in and around Delaware County, as well as reinvest in low-wealth and underserved communities throughout the region. The panelists noted that underserved communities represent the last bastion of lost capitalism in America; they are opportunity-rich for leaders in the private sector, but there must be a partnership between government, community leaders, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to commit to building a new and educated stakeholder class in America. The event (see enclosed agenda) consisted of five panels consisting of local experts on these areas, including:

- 1) Workforce Skills and Education Needs
- 2) Enhancing Investment
- 3) Promoting Business Development and Growth
- 4) Sustainable Community Economic Development & Vitalization; and
- 5) Next Steps: Economic Development Strategies Moving Forward.

“This is all about jobs,” added Joe. “Over the last 3 years, we have lost approximately 600 small businesses in our region. This summit is about working together to boost our region’s economy and create more good-paying jobs. We want our kids to be able to stay here and raise their families.

Congressman Sestak will be turning the discussion from today's Summit into a report that will highlight the findings and include suggested action items, including legislation, that Joe can pursue in Congress.

In addition to today's summit, Congressman Sestak held a two-part Education Summit, with Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller and Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness Chairman Ruben Hinojosa, to discuss and strategize about the issues surrounding Early Childhood, special education, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Higher Education. During the Education Summit's panel discussion on early childhood education, Congressman Sestak's panelists and guests discussed the need to address three issues pertaining to Head Start: continued support of parental involvement in local Head Start policy councils; extending eligibility of Head Start for families up to 130 percent of the poverty level, ways to recruit retain head start teachers, including loan forgiveness. As a result of this discussion, Congressman Sestak worked with Chairman Miller to incorporate parental involvement in local Head Start policy councils and to extend the eligibility of Head Start families into H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act. Joe also offered an amendment during the Head Start Reauthorization bill to provide loan forgiveness (up to \$17,500) for Head Start teachers, the same currently offered to math, science, and special education teachers.

Congressman Sestak also recently held a summit with Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) on mental health parity, and out of its discussion, successfully passed two amendments to H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will improve mental health care for our wounded soldiers. The first amendment highlights the fact that mental health care is an essential component to the medical services offered to our Veterans and the members of our Armed Services by clarifying that 'medical care' as defined in H.R. 1538 includes mental health care services. The second amendment requires the Secretary of the Department of Defense to develop a plan to help prevent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other stress-related psychopathologies (including substance abuse conditions) from developing in our military service members. In addition, it requires the Secretary to submit to Congress within 180 days a plan for establishing a Peer-Reviewed research program within the Defense Health Program's research and development function to research the prevention of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and how to best strengthen the psychological resiliency of our military service members. Both amendments passed with unanimous support.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on

Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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Thursday, April 12, 2007

Economic Development Summit
Location: Alumni Hall, Mustin Theatre
Widener University

Event Description: The Economic Summit will bring together business leaders and owners from across the District, local chambers of commerce, economic development professionals, venture capitalists, representatives from financial institutions, union and workforce leaders, and those from both the higher education and advanced training community to address the challenges facing our workforce, barriers to investment, and to discuss strategies to bring economic growth to our local and regional economy.

Agenda

7:00AM Registration
7:45AM – 9:15AM Workforce Skills and Education Needs
Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

• Expert Panelists:

Dr. Martin Harmer, Director, Center For Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, Lehigh University
Mr. David Meehan, President & CEO, Aker American Shipping
Mr. John DeFrancisco, President, United Automotive Workers -- Local 1069
Mr. Joseph Welch, President, Collegiate Consortium
Mr. Mickey Flynn, President, Pennsylvania BIO

Mr. Ryan Riley, Immediate Past President, Widener University Student Government, May 2007
Bachelor's Candidate

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion

- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

9:15AM – 11:00AM Enhancing Investment / Access to Capital

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists:

Mr. Mike Donoghue, Managing Director, Spring Capital Partners

Mr. James Wujcik, Regional President, Sovereign Bank

Mr. Winston Churchill, Managing General Partner, SCP Partners

Mr. Terry Hicks, Vice President, Benjamin Franklin Technology Partners

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion

- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

11:00AM—11:30AM Lunch Break

11:30AM – 1:15 PM Encouraging Business Development and Growth

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists:

Mr. Michael Goettler, Vice President for New Business and Business Development, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Mike Pearson, Owner, Union Packaging, LLC

Mr. Christian Conroy, Associate State Director, Pennsylvania SBDC

Mr. Jack Holefelder, President, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Gary Smith, Executive Director, Chester County Economic Development Council

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion

- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

1:15PM – 3:00 PM Community Economic Development and Vitalization
Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists:

Mr. John Blake, Executive Deputy Secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development, State of Pennsylvania

Ms. Joan M. Brodhead, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Community First Fund

Mr. Malcolm Johnstone, Executive Director, West Chester Business Improvement District

Mr. Pat Killian, Director, Delaware County Commerce Center

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion

- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Economic Development Strategies Moving Forward
Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists:

Mr. Steven Wray, Executive Director, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

Mr. Phil Hopkins, Director of Research, Select Greater Philadelphia

Mr. Kevin Silverang, Co-Founder and President, Silverang Hallowell

Mr. Edward Vick, Former Chairman and CEO, Young and Rubicam

Dr. James Harris, President, Widener University

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion

Ten Minute Presentation to set framework for Discussion

- Panel followed by Discussion with audience